Closure of research centre of CIFT

162. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Research Centre of Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) established at Hirakud Dam Project in 1963, was found fit to be closed down.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether, on the request of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Orissa, he reviewed the matter and agreed to continue the same during his visit to Orissa in July, 2009; and

(d) if so, by when formal orders on the subject are proposed to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Research Centre had accomplished its targeted mandate.

(c) and (d) The Centre is continuing and the matter is sub-judice.

Financial assistance to drought hit districts

163. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received proposals to declare a large number of districts as drought hit from various States;

(b) whether Government has sent any Central team to each of such districts in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the name of districts in various States so far declared as drought hit districts;

(d) the details of assistance requested by various States to such affected districts, State-wise; and

(e) the details of assistance Government has provided to each of such districts so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) It is within the State Government's domain to declare areas as affected by drought. During South-West Monsoon 2009,12 States have declared drought/ drought like/scarcity conditions.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Inter-Ministerial Central Teams were deputed to all the 12 drought affected States to visit the affected districts, as per programme drawn in consultation with the States. The State-wise details of districts declared as drought affected is given in the enclosed Statement-I. [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to USQ No. 157 Part (a), (b) and (c).]

(d) and (e) Central Government provides assistance directly to the State Govenment. A Statement showing the details of financial assistance sought by the State Governments to deal with the drought and the assistance granted under NCCF is given in the enclosed Statement-II. [Refer to the statement appended to the Answer to USQ No. 157 Part (a), (b) and (c).]